July 20, 1969

Senator Walter F. Mondale
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Mondale:

This letter was written on July 7, but due to a change in secretaries, misplaced until now, so I have decided to type it myself.

Thanks for your letters of July 3 and July 9. While I am pleased that you plan to make inquiries "with the appropriate staffs in Congress and the Executive Branch," and would be interested in the results of such inquiries, judging from past experience I fear that such inquiries will provide you with little real insight into what the issues in this controversy are. The Justice Department, for instance, continues to give congressmen and the public alike assurances that the Warren Report is OK, and yet their own 1968 Panel Review of the autopsy findings, despite its concluding paragraphs, actually raised new and more serious questions concerning the autopsy. Furthermore, when all of those fine lawyers and researchers got their day in court, their case was found to be full of holes, and even their last-minute and sometimes absurd nitpicking could not prevent a verdict which went against them. Even after five years of preparation they could not successfully challenge the claim that there is "substantial evidence that shots were fired from more than one direction." Added to this is the fact that their letters of reassurance, which I know you have seen, make the claim that critics of the Warren Commission claim to have no new evidence. As I pointed out in my first letter to you, this is not only patently false, but absurd as well, and no one should know that better than an employee of the justice department who is also a lawyer.

Ted Kupferman (R-NY), who has looked into this matter more deeply than the average congressman, asked for a re-opening of the investigation after having exhausted himself attempting to find answers to the legitimate questions which have been raised through normal government channels. He was not as burdened with committee work as most of you are.

While I have no plans for a trip to Washington for quite some time, perhaps if you are in Minnesota and have some free time, I could show you the slides and movies of the assassination so that you can make your own decisions about the validity of the questions which people like myself raise. Representative Don Fraser has seen a hasty presentation of some of this material in the home of a mutual friend, Dr. Morris Visscher, so he could give you an opinion of its worth.

There are two ex-senate investigators in the Washington area who are working on the case: Harold Weisberg [Route 8—Box 304, Frederick, MD 21701 301 473-8186] and Bernard Fensterwald Jr. [927 15th St. NW, Suite 1108, Washington, DC 347-3837 or his home phone in Arlington: 703 527-4580]. Harold probably qualifies as the world's foremost authority on this subject, while Bud is much newer to the case, although he is director of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, recently having resigned as chief counsel for the Senate Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure.

Both of these men, who are friends, will be getting a copy of this letter. Either one might be able to meet with you, brief you on the case, and answer your questions. Either could meet with you at the National Archives to show you the films of the assassination which are available there. A number of congressmen have found this to be a short and easy way (the Archives being only a few blocks from the Senate office buildings) to gain a rudimentary knowledge of the crucial questions about what happened in Dealy Plaza in 1963. I still hope, however, that there will be a time when we can get together. Time and time again, everyone from band presidents to prominant lawyers tell me that every member of congress should see my slides, and all I can reply is that I will make them available and hope that congressmen are sufficiently concerned about either the assassination itself, or the conduct of federal agencies after it, to come and see them.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Gary Richard Schoener
Box 392 Mayo Hospital
Minneapolis, Minnesota
55455

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